



Date: March 2, 2022

Dear respected members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

**I write today to voice my strong support regarding 'An Act Concerning Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record.'**

I am a Social Worker, an Associate Professor of Social Work, member of the Social Welfare Action Alliance and Sex Workers and Allies Network, and Co-Chair of the Women's Resettlement Working Group in New Haven, CT. Each of these positionalities has led me to see firsthand the negative impact of having a criminal record on the ability of returning residents to obtain employment and thus to set themselves up for success. This Act would prohibit bans on employees' ability to access certain positions and would create an opportunity for a Council in the state to review current policies and establish best practices for ensuring returning resident success across the state of Connecticut.

It is a known fact that those coming home have a high likelihood of returning to prison without supports in place to ensure success in the transition to home. A part of any returning resident's success is the ability to obtain employment, and thus housing, transportation, healthcare, and the myriad of other things necessary to live a good life in our state. This Act will provide a pathway to elimination of some of the barriers to success that many of our returning residents face after serving their time. When supported in their success, returning residents can become full and contributing members of our communities. This allows for healthier communities in general, as each of our contributions, formerly incarcerated or no, lends to a stronger network of support for the community as a whole.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter of support, and I encourage you strongly to consider how this Act supports us all in supporting healthier communities across the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

**Amber Kelly, PhD, MSW, LCSW**  
Associate Professor of Social Work  
Department of Social Work  
School of Health Sciences  
Quinnipiac University  
275 Mount Carmel Ave  
Hamden, CT 06518

